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# California State Senate

SENATOR  
**SHEILA JAMES KUEHL**  
TWENTY-THIRD SENATE DISTRICT

CHAIR  
NATURAL RESOURCES AND WATER COMMITTEE



## COMMITTEES:

BUDGET AND FISCAL REVIEW  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
GOVERNMENT MODERNIZATION,  
EFFICIENCY & ACCOUNTABILITY  
HEALTH  
JUDICIARY  
LABOR & INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT

## SUBCOMMITTEES:

CHAIR, BUDGET & FISCAL REVIEW,  
SUBCOMMITTEE 2 ON RESOURCES,  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
AND ENERGY

HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEES ON  
AGING & LONG TERM CARE  
STEM CELL RESEARCH OVERSIGHT

NATURAL RESOURCES  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON DELTA  
RESOURCES

## SELECT COMMITTEES:

CHAIR, HEALTH INSURANCE CRISIS  
IN CALIFORNIA

CHAIR, SCHOOL SAFETY  
CALIFORNIA CORRECTIONAL  
SYSTEM

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
& MENTAL HEALTH

PERCHLORATE CONTAMINATION

## JOINT COMMITTEE:

JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE ARTS

## **Senate Bill 1673 (Kuehl): Maintaining the State Park System** **FACT SHEET**

### Background

Our state parks include 1.5 million acres of land in rural, urban, coastal and desert areas. The overwhelming majority of state park lands – 94 percent – are managed for resource, ecological and biological value. As such, our state parks provide important habitat for species that help indicate the overall health of our state's environment. At the same time, the parks serve as much-needed areas for recreation and physical fitness activities, as highly visited outdoor classrooms and places of learning for students throughout the state, and as quiet places of refuge and rejuvenation.

The state park system is currently experiencing a significant gap between funding resources and system needs. As a result of the annual under-funding of maintenance and operations, a more than \$900 million deferred maintenance backlog and \$1.2 billion capital outlay backlog exists throughout the state park system. Finding a stable, long-term funding source is critical to the state's ability to properly maintain and protect this invaluable resource.

### Proposed solution

The California State Parks Foundation has convened a task force consisting of stakeholders, budget experts, and park supporters to seek innovative opportunities to maximize existing public funding streams and, where appropriate, find mechanisms to bring revenue from private sources and donors into the state park system to be used specifically for maintenance and operations. Senate Bill 1673 is a vehicle to help implement findings from this task force on fiscal sustainability for the state park system.

Currently, Senate Bill 1673 authorizes the Department to fund ongoing maintenance and operations functions with revenue received from existing public funding streams, through philanthropic support, and through revenues raised by the use of public-private partnerships.

Sponsor: California State Parks Foundation

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